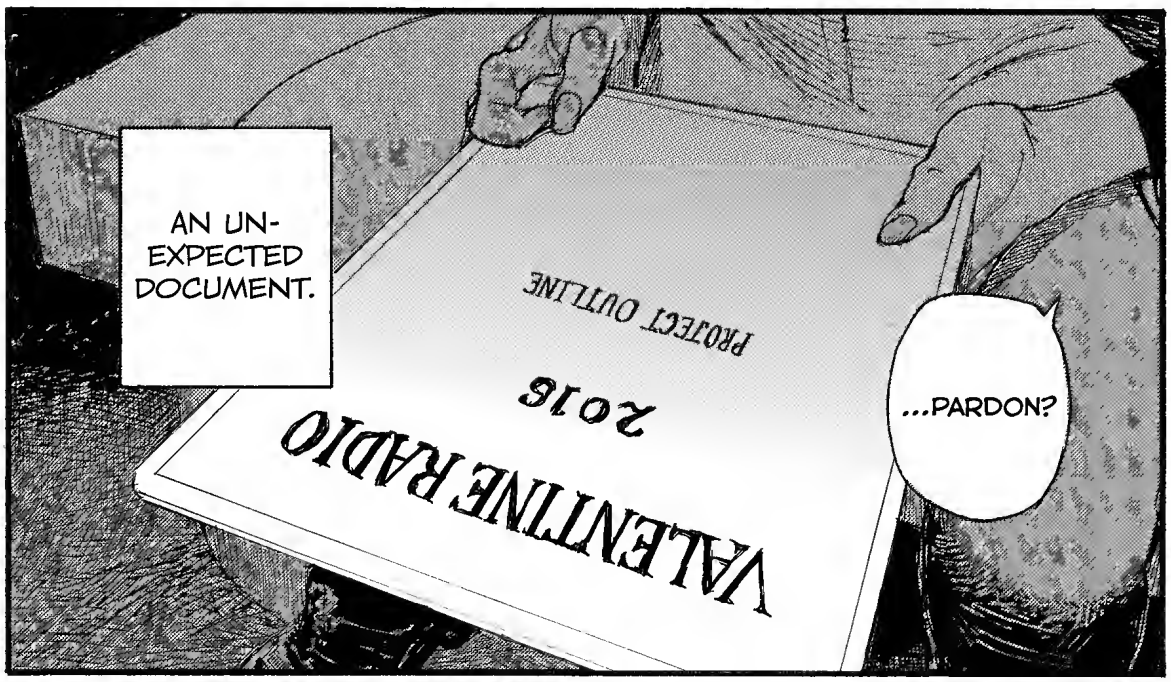
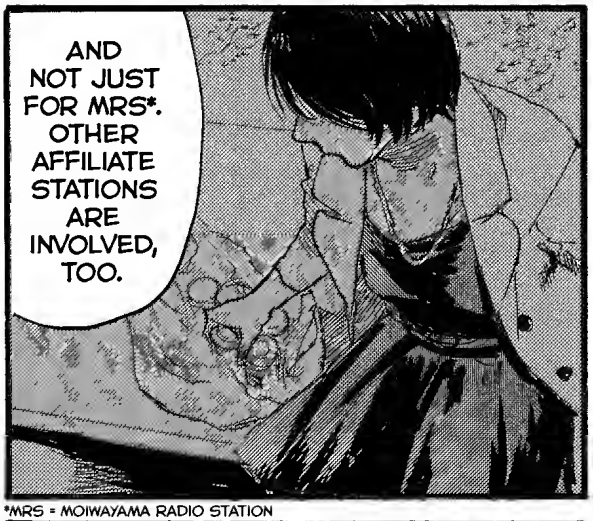
HIROAKI SAMURA
Chapter 25 「THE PARTY GOES ON.」
Nodogoshi
wave
LISTEN TO ME!

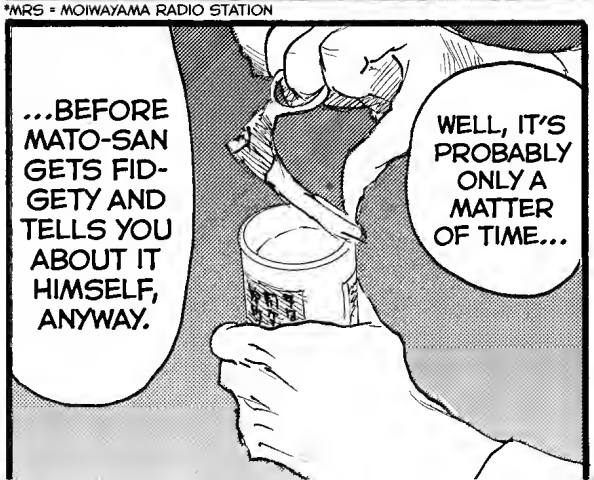


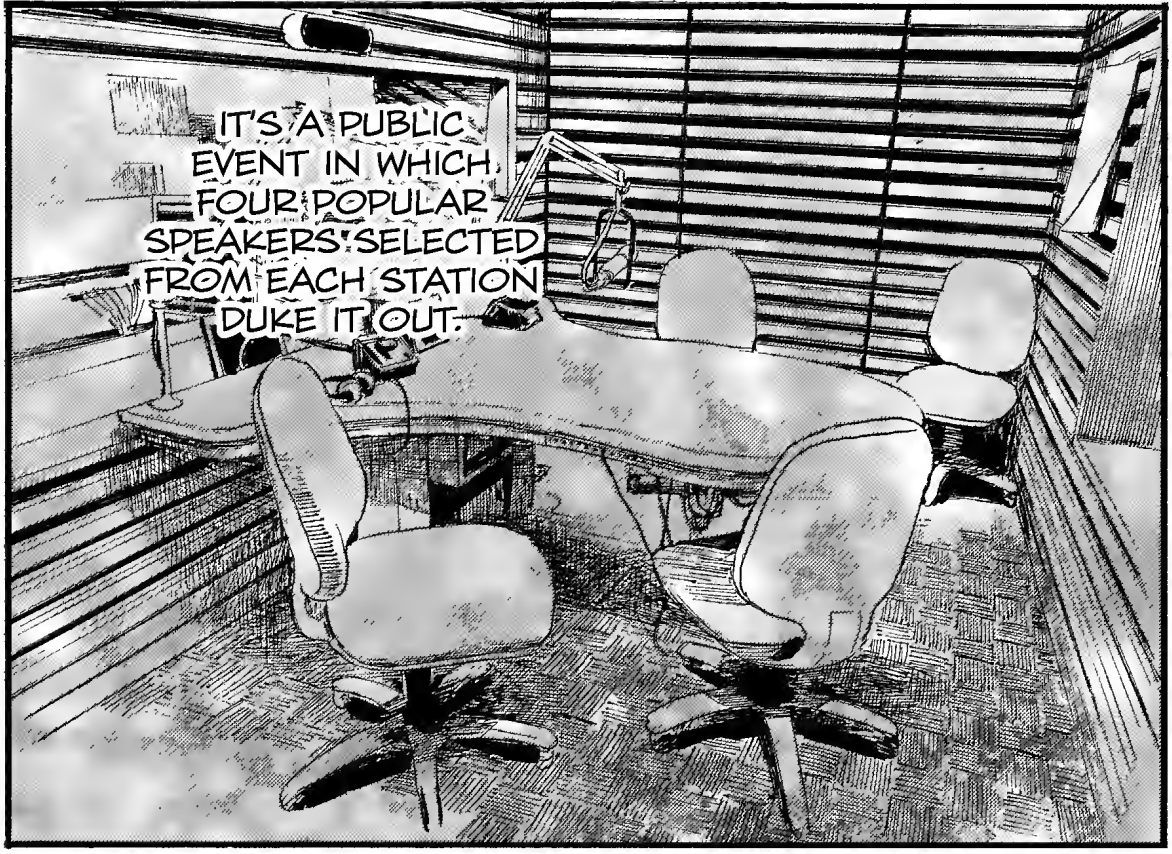
THE STORY SO FAR

UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF MATO, AN FM STATION WORKER, MINARE KODA HAS MADE HER DEBUT AS A RADIO DJ. ONE DAY, A MAN LIVING IN THE SAME APARTMENT COMPLEX AS HER REACHES OUT TO THE STATION, CLAIMING THAT HE'S BEING HAUNTED BY A GHOST. MINARE FINDS BUNDLES OF ROTTING MEAT ABOVE HIS APARTMENT AND CALLS THE POLICE ON HIM, ONLY TO LATER BE FORCED TO APOLOGIZE WHEN SHE LEARNS THAT SAID MEAT WAS DISCARDED BY HER. NOW, SHE'S BEEN CALLED OUT BY CHISHIRO, A SENIOR DJ.



*MRS = MOIWAYAMA RADIO STATION

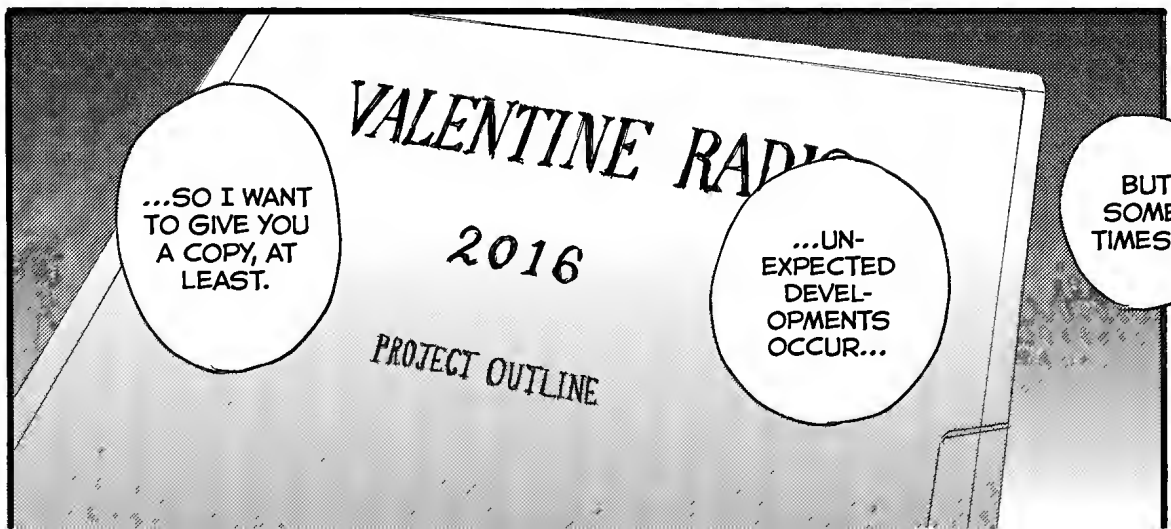



IT'S A PUBLIC EVENT IN WHICH FOUR POPULAR SPEAKERS SELECTED FROM EACH STATION DUKE IT OUT.

...MAYBE.

well, I was joking about the duke it out bit.
HUH?
WELL, IT DOESN'T, RIGHT?
YOU'RE THINKING IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, AREN'T YOU?

HUH...

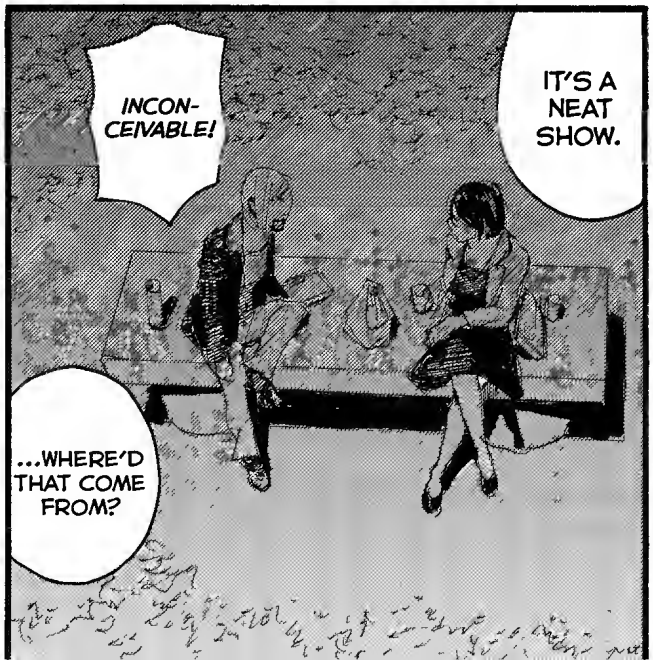

VALENTINE RADI
2016
PROJECT OUTLINE
...SO I WANT TO GIVE YOU A COPY, AT LEAST.
...UN-EXPECTED DEVEL-OPMENTS OCCUR...
BUT SOME-TIMES...

AND? WHAT DID YOU MEAN ABOUT ME ONLY BEING INTERESTING IN MYSELF?
TURN A DEAF EAR TO THAT...
NO, REALLY, WHY THE ANASTRO-PHE?
...I SURELY CANNOT.

I JUST WASN'T EXPECT-ING YOU TO COM-PLIMENT ME.
oh...

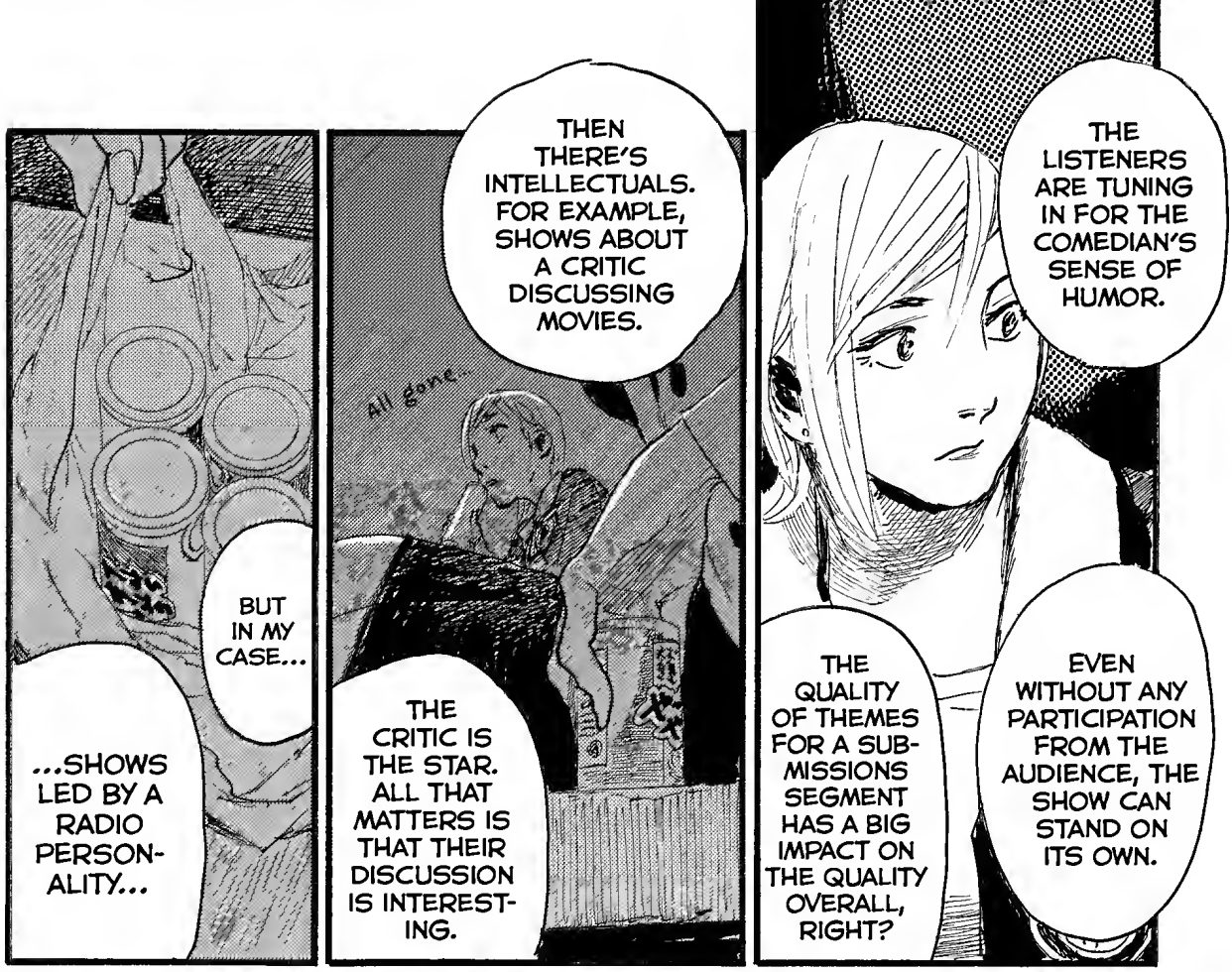
I'VE LISTENED TO ALL THREE RECORD-INGS.
YOUR SHOW, *WAVE, LISTEN TO ME*, WAS IT?

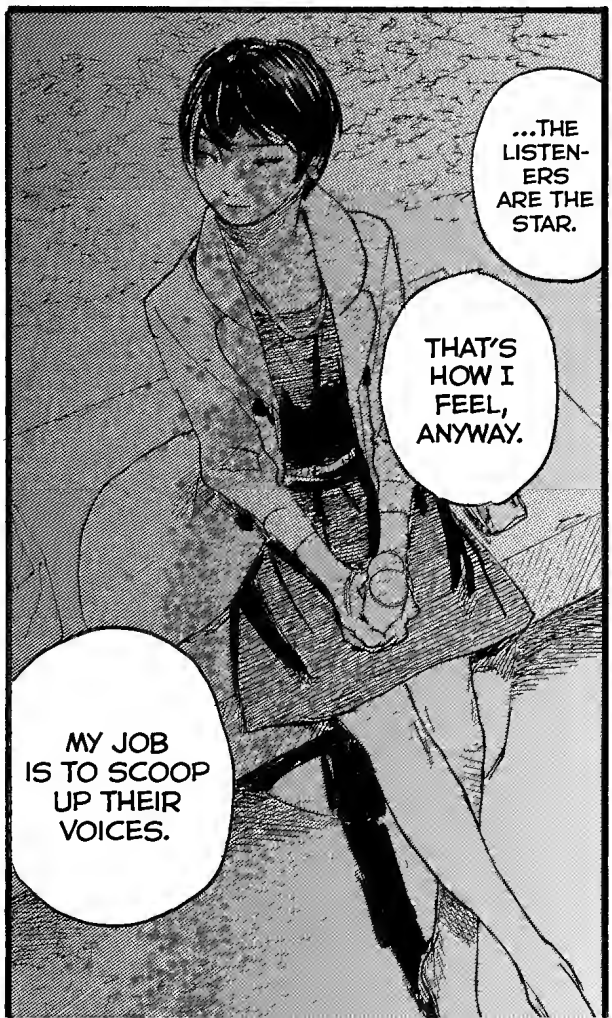
I REALLY DO THINK IT WAS ENTER-TAINING.
BUT...

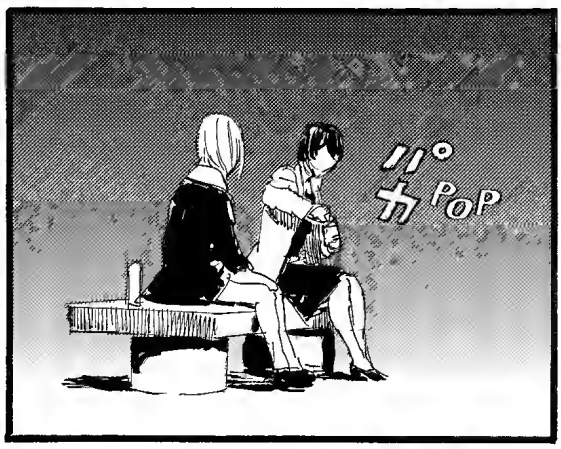

IT'S A NEAT SHOW.
INCON-CEIVABLE!
...WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?

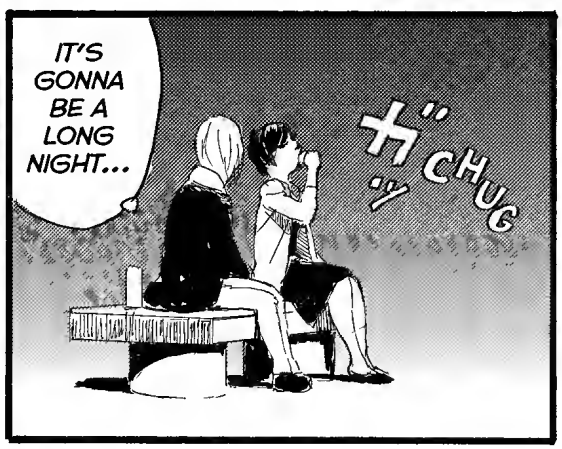
...BUT YOUR OWN.
...IT WASN'T BECAUSE OF THE CHARM OF RADIO...
THERE WERE SO MANY BLANK SPOTS, IT LOOKED LIKE A SKELETON MATH PROBLEM. I THOUGHT YOU WERE GUTSY TO TRY AND FILL ALL THAT WITH ADLIB ON THE AIR.
I WAS BLOWN AWAY WHEN I SAW THE SCRIPT FOR THE RADIO DRAMA.
...YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE I HAD A CHOICE IN THE MATTER.
?
I MEAN YOU'RE A PRETTY *AMUSING PERSON*, KODA-SAN.
can't help but feel like you're dissing me.
I DIDN'T SEE THAT SHADY-ASS RESPONSE COMING!
WELL, IN MY CASE...
...I'D PROBABLY MAKE THE WRITER REVISE THE WHOLE SCRIPT BY THREATENING NOT TO GO DRINKING WITH HIM AGAIN.
I BET YOU'D DO A WAY BETTER JOB IF YOU WERE IN MY SHOES, CHISHIRO-SAN.
BUT REALLY, MY SITUATION IS LIKE BEING DRIVEN TO THE EDGE OF A CLIFF AND CHOOSING TO EITHER THROW MYSELF OFF OR BE GUNNED DOWN.

SO, NOW THAT'S ALL'S SAID AND DONE...
...HOW DO YOU FEEL, HAVING FINISHED YOUR FIRST BROADCAST AS A RADIO PERSONALITY?
BEFORE THAT, I SHOULD ASK,
ARE YOU ACTUALLY *INTERESTED* IN YOUR LISTENERS?
NOT SURE I GET WHAT YOU MEAN BY *ACTUALLY INTEREST-ED*...
weird japanese...
YOU KNOW HOW THERE ARE RADIO SHOWS HOSTED BY COMEDIANS, RIGHT?
WHEN ASKED WHO THE STAR OF THOSE KINDS OF SHOWS IS, THE ANSWER IS OBVIOUSLY "THE COMEDIAN."
THE LISTENERS ARE TUNING IN FOR THE COMEDIAN'S SENSE OF HUMOR.

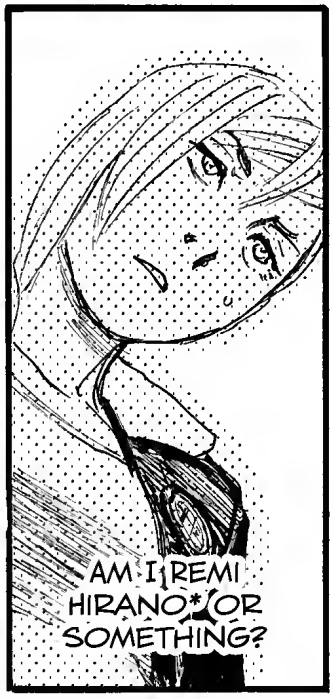

THE LISTENERS ARE TUNING IN FOR THE COMEDIAN'S SENSE OF HUMOR.
EVEN WITHOUT ANY PARTICIPATION FROM THE AUDIENCE, THE SHOW CAN STAND ON ITS OWN.
THE QUALITY OF THEMES FOR A SUB-MISSIONS SEGMENT HAS A BIG IMPACT ON THE QUALITY OVERALL, RIGHT?
THEN THERE'S INTELLECTUALS. FOR EXAMPLE, SHOWS ABOUT A CRITIC DISCUSSING MOVIES.
All gone...
THE CRITIC IS THE STAR. ALL THAT MATTERS IS THAT THEIR DISCUSSION IS INTEREST-ING.
BUT IN MY CASE...
...SHOWS LED BY A RADIO PERSON-ALITY...


...THE LISTEN-ERS ARE THE STAR.
THAT'S HOW I FEEL, ANYWAY.
MY JOB IS TO SCOOP UP THEIR VOICES.


POP


IT'S GONNA BE A LONG NIGHT...
CHUG

RADIO REIGNS SUPREME IN THAT SENSE.
SCANDALS THAT CAN'T BE DISCUSSED ON TV, RISQUÉ JOKES THAT BARELY MEET BROADCAST CODE...
FOR SHOWS HOSTED BY COMEDIANS AND INTELLECTUALS, PEOPLE EXPECT THE CORE OF THE SHOW TO BE THE INFORMATION THAT'S DELIVERED.
IN REALITY, THE CORE OF WHAT'S DISCUSSED HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE'S EVERYDAY LIVES.
...ISN'T FULL OF PEOPLE WHO LIKE LISTENING TO THAT KINDA STUFF.
BUT THE WORLD...
THOSE ARE THE KINDS OF TOPICS MY LISTENERS LIKE TO SHARE. THEY'RE ALL FRIVOLOUS TOPICS WITHOUT A SHRED OF NEWS RELEVANCE...
THOUGHTS ON PEOPLE WHO TAKE YAKITORI OFF THE SKEWER BEFORE EATING...
SURPRISES SPRUNG BY BOYFRIENDS THAT CREEPED GIRLS OUT,
AFTER ALL, I'M A FRIVOLOUS HUMAN BEING, TOO.
...BUT I SCOOP THEM UP BECAUSE I THINK THEY'RE INTERESTING.



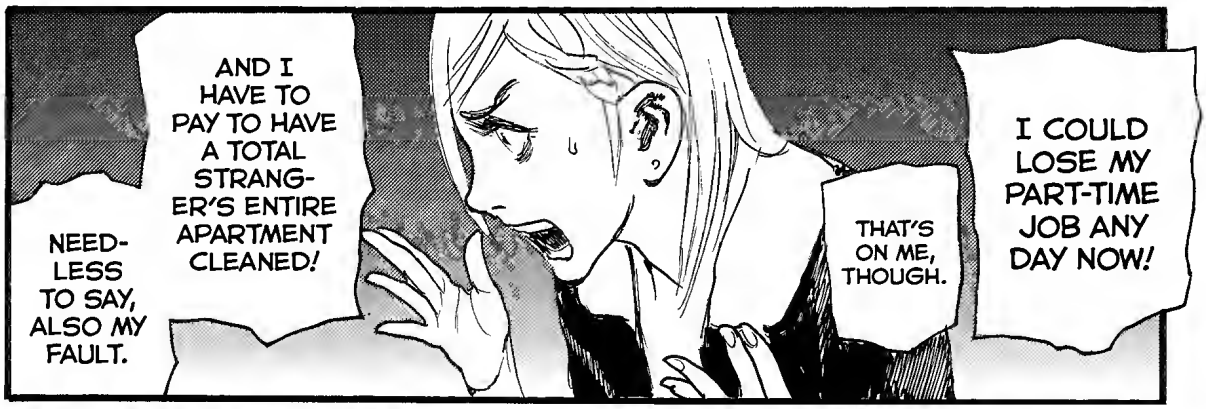
*A CHEF AND TV PERSONALITY WITH A PENCHANT FOR FLUBS ON AIR.

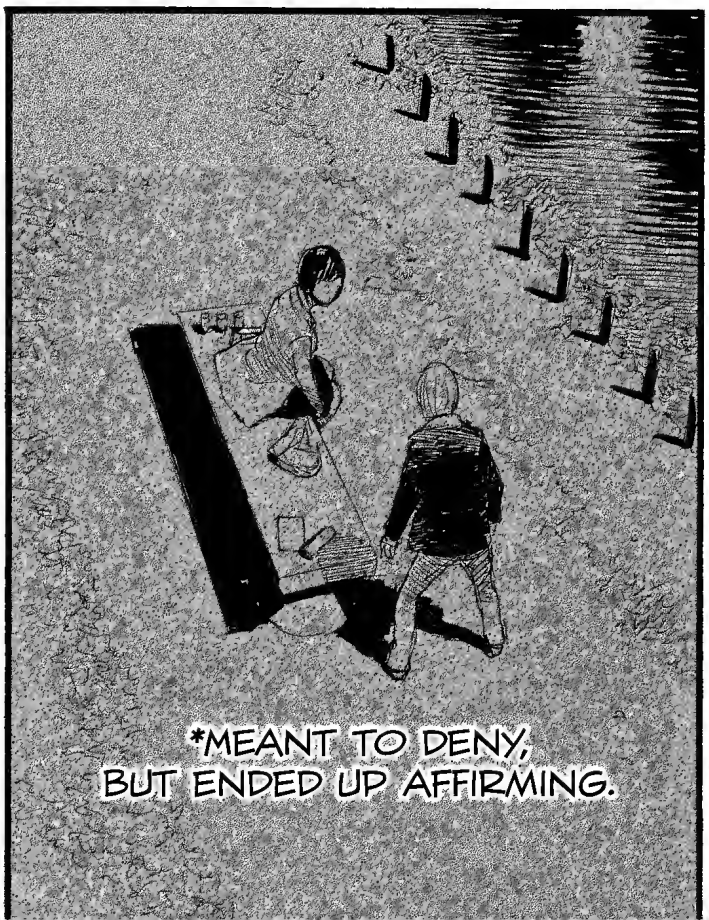
I MEAN, A COMEDIAN...
...ISN'T SOMETHING YOU JUST BECOME ON A WHIM.
YOU'RE STILL NOT DONE?
PEOPLE WHO BECOME COMEDIANS DO SO BECAUSE THEY CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT COMEDY.
Y'KNOW HOW PEOPLE SAY THINGS LIKE, "I WOULD'VE KILLED MYSELF LONG AGO IF IT WEREN'T FOR DOWNTOWN."
THE CRASS JOKES THOSE KINDS OF PEOPLE TELL HAVE A SORT OF DARK REALISM TO THEM, RIGHT?
THE SAME GOES FOR MY LISTENERS. THEY'RE STRUGGLING TO GET BY EVERY DAY.
POP
AND THAT'S WHY THEY TRY TO CHEER UP ALL THE OTHER PEOPLE LIKE THEM.
ゴキュ・ゴキュ・ゴキュ
GLUG GLUG GLUG
DO YOU HAVE THAT SORT OF EMPATHY TO COALESCE WITH YOUR AUDIENCE?
WHOA, HANG ON A SECOND!
AREN'T YOU JUST USING YOUR DRUNKENNESS TO LECTURE ME?
WAS THAT SHOW REALLY SUBSTANTIAL ENOUGH FOR YOU TO MAKE ANY SORT OF ASSESSMENT OF MY CHARACTER?
THAT'S RIGHT.
I'VE LET THE BOOZE TAKE THE WHEEL AND SWITCHED TO FULL LECTURE MODE!
BUT IT'S OKAY. I'LL PROBABLY FORGET ABOUT IT ALL TOMORROW.
YOUR DEFINITION OF "OKAY" IS ABOUT AS BLOATED AS YOUR BLOOD ALCOHOL LEVEL!
IS THIS HAG INVINCIBLE, OR WHAT?!

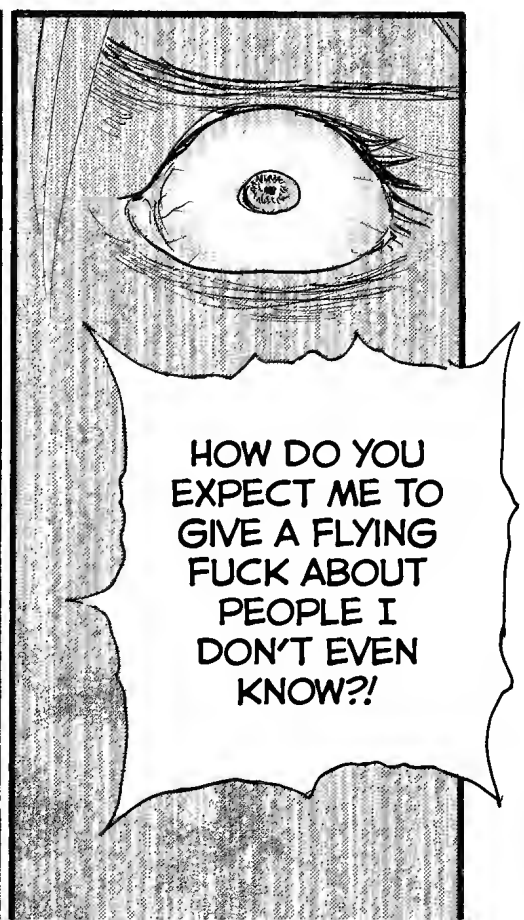
I DUNNO ABOUT THAT.
I THINK THE ONLY TOPICS YOU COULD PRETEND TO BE INTERESTED IN ARE LIKE...
*Girl trying to hint, "Is it that fun drinking alone?"
EMPTY
I MEAN, REGARDLESS IF I'M ACTUALLY INTERESTED IN MY LISTENERS OR NOT, I CAN AT LEAST *PRETEND* I AM.
IF IT'S FOR WORK, ANYWAY!
"FOUTH-TIME DIVORCEE." "PARENTS JOINED A CULT." "CRIMINAL RECORD." "ORIX BUFFALOS FAN." "I GOT A SEX CHANGE LAST YEAR."
NO! WELL...
YEAH, I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT...
SOUND ABOUT RIGHT?
THE FACT IS,
IF YOU WERE A COMEDIAN OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT, I WOULDN'T HAVE ANY PROBLEM.
BUT THE FACT THAT YOU, AN AMATEUR OFF THE STREET,
HOST YOUR OWN SHOW ON THE COMPANY'S DIME, ALBEIT LATE NIGHT...
...AND *THIS* IS WHAT YOU HAVE TO SHOW FOR IT?
DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU'D GET BY WITHOUT ANYONE CHEWING YOU OUT?

I'VE BEEN LISTENING TO YOU RANT...
...AND YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE I USED MY CONNECTIONS TO GET THAT SLOT AND AM USING IT FOR MY OWN SELF-GRATIFICATION OR SOMETHING...
...LIKE I GIVE A SHIT!
...BUT I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW EVERYTHING UP UNTIL NOW HAS ALL BEEN MATO-SAN'S IDEA!
THOUGH EVEN I THINK IT'S KIND OF EMBARRASSING TO ADMIT.
ALSO, YOU'RE ASSUMING SOME REAL BULLSHIT, LIKE I'M NOT INTERESTED IN OTHER PEOPLE BECAUSE I'M SOME UNFEELING JESTER, BUT YOU COULDN'T BE MORE OFF THE MARK!

I'VE GOT MY HANDS FULL AS IT IS, GOD DAMN IT!
I'M SURE YOU MUST BE LIVING EASY AS A POPULAR DJ...
...BUT I'M SURE AS HELL NOT!


I COULD LOSE MY PART-TIME JOB ANY DAY NOW!
THAT'S ON ME, THOUGH.
AND I HAVE TO PAY TO HAVE A TOTAL STRANG-ER'S ENTIRE APARTMENT CLEANED!
NEED-LESS TO SAY, ALSO MY FAULT.


*MEANT TO DENY, BUT ENDED UP AFFIRMING.

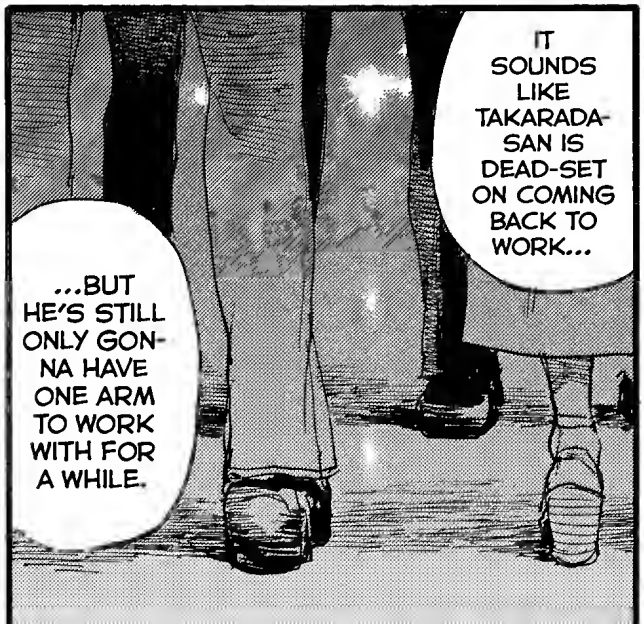

HOW DO YOU EXPECT ME TO GIVE A FLYING FUCK ABOUT PEOPLE I DON'T EVEN KNOW?!

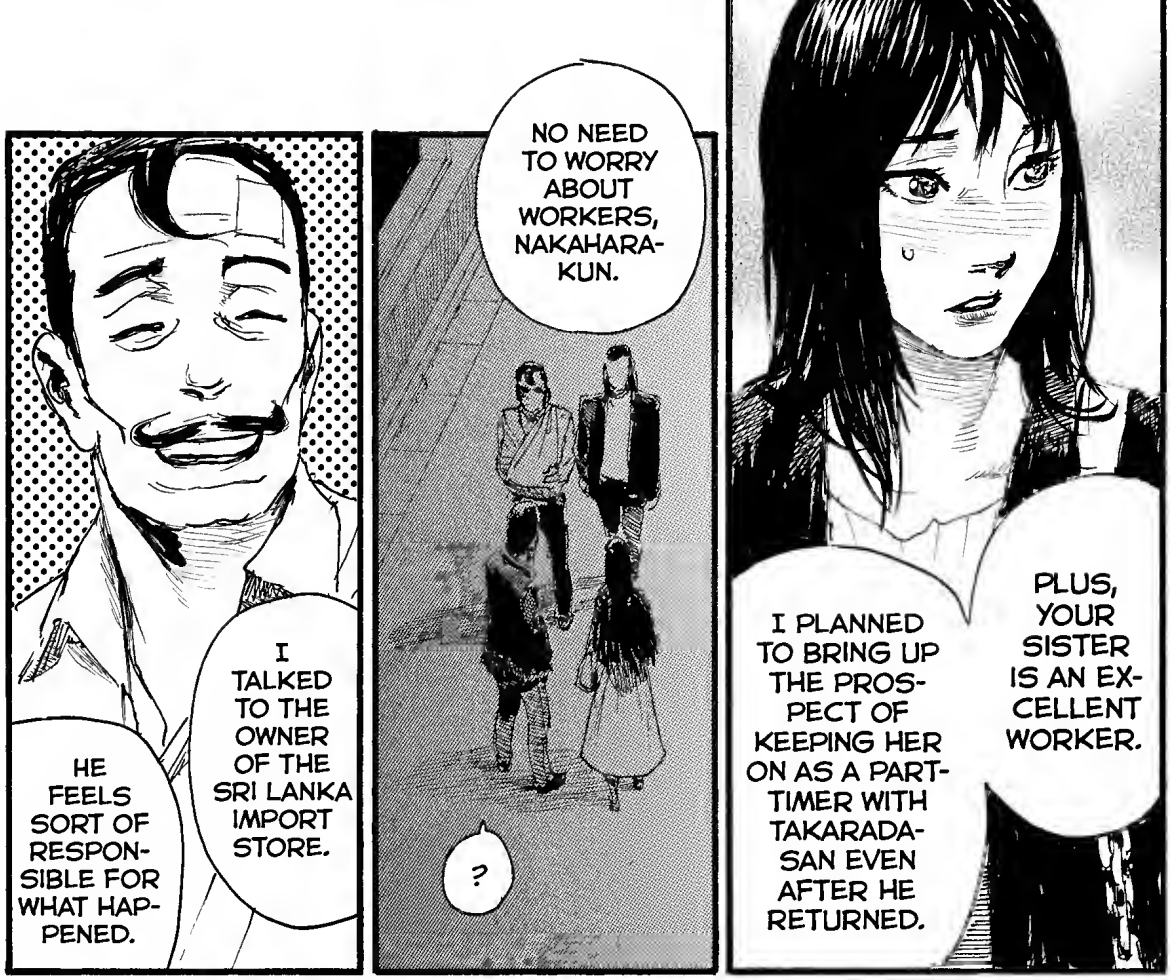
I APOLO-GIZE FOR ALL THE TROUBLE MY CARELESS-NESS HAS CAUSED.
I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO SEND SOME MORE QUALI-FIED TO HELP, BUT UNFOR-TUNATELY, I COULDN'T AFFORD TO FINANCIALLY.
TACHI-BANA-SAN'S BROTHER!
TORU-SAN, WAS IT?
NICE TO MEET YOU. STRANGE WE'RE JUST MEETING NOW, THOUGH.

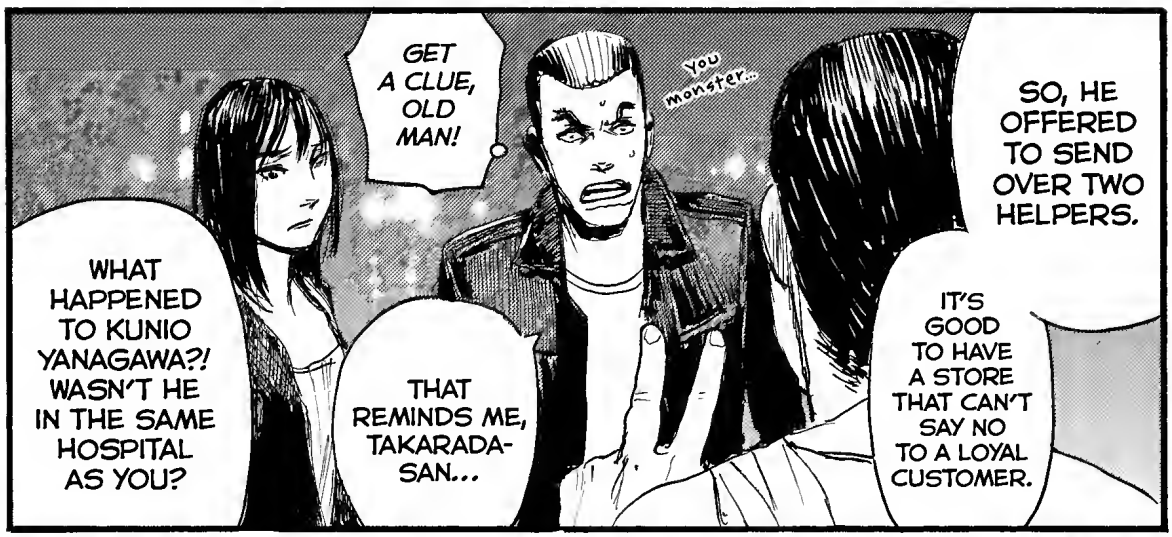
COME, MAKIE. YOU'RE NO LONGER NEEDED HERE.
...NO.
HOWEVER, AFTER DIS-CUSSING IT WITH TAKARADA-SAMA, WE WERE ABLE TO WORK SOMETHING OUT.

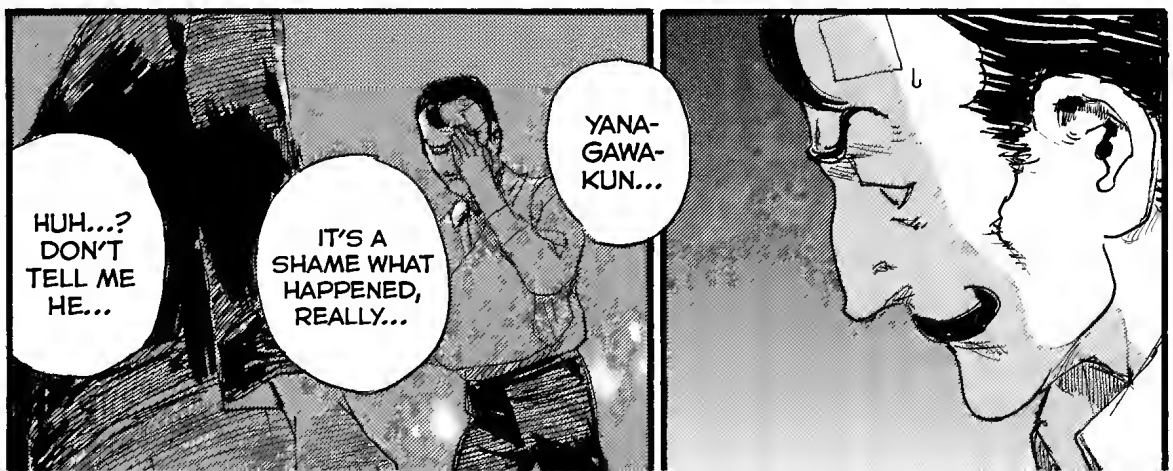
I'M NOT GOING.

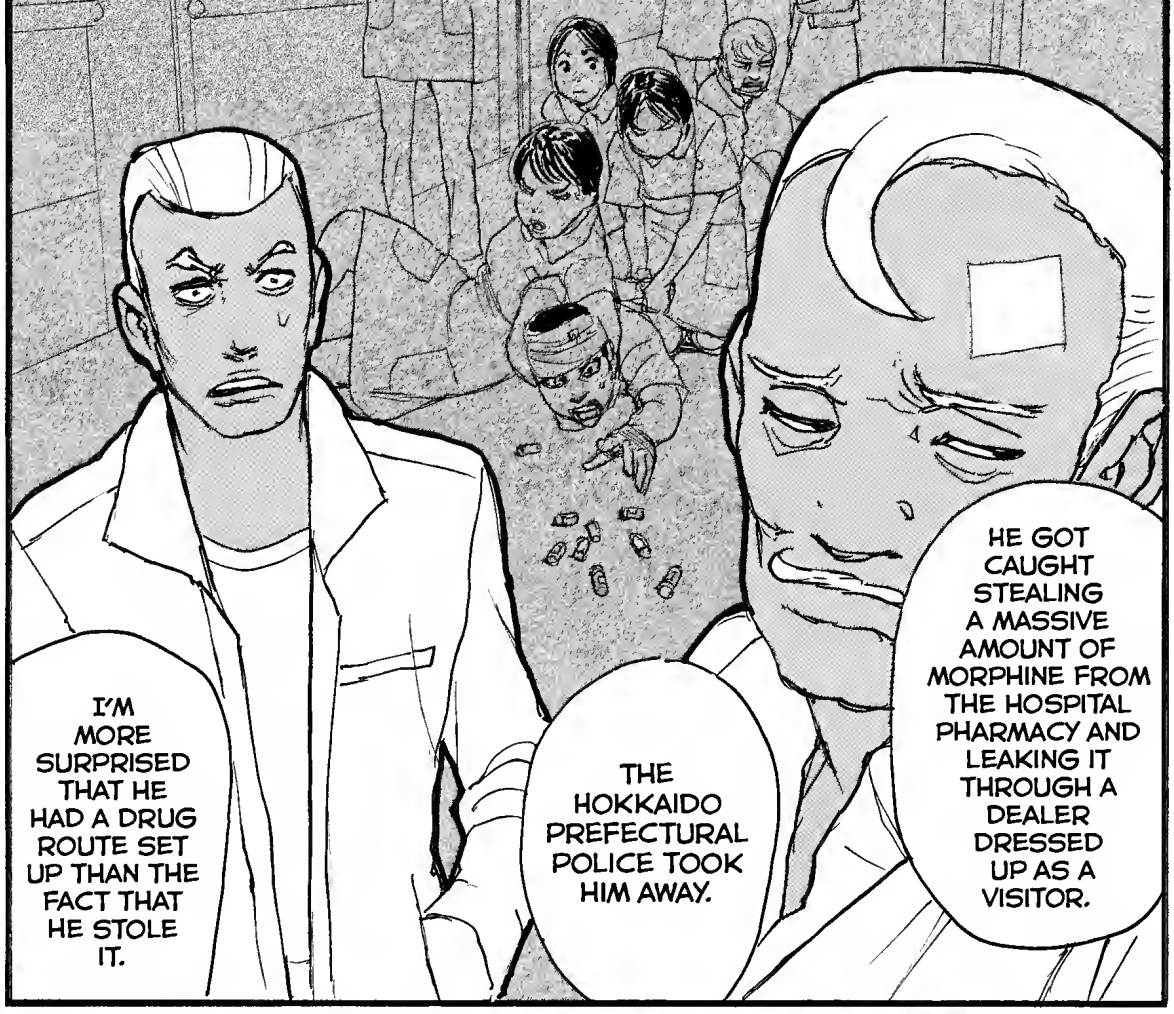
HANG ON A SEC-OND.
THAT'S A LITTLE TOO SUDDEN.

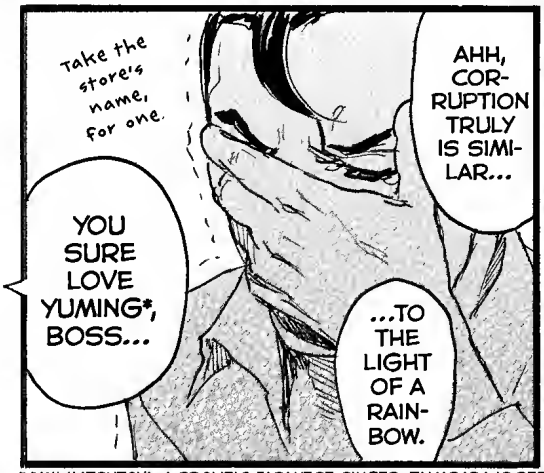

IT SOUNDS LIKE TAKARADA-SAN IS DEAD-SET ON COMING BACK TO WORK...
...BUT HE'S STILL ONLY GON-NA HAVE ONE ARM TO WORK WITH FOR A WHILE.

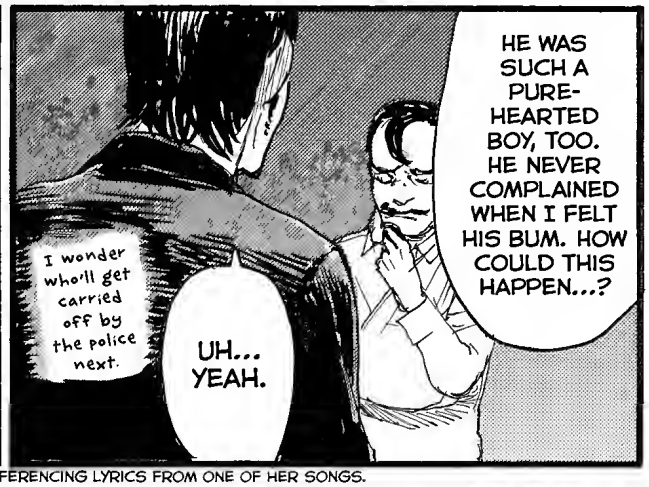

PLUS, YOUR SISTER IS AN EXCELLENT WORKER.
I PLANNED TO BRING UP THE PROSPECT OF KEEPING HER ON AS A PART-TIMER WITH TAKARADA-SAN EVEN AFTER HE RETURNED.
NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT WORKERS, NAKAHARA-KUN.
?
I TALKED TO THE OWNER OF THE SRI LANKA IMPORT STORE.
HE FEELS SORT OF RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENED.


SO, HE OFFERED TO SEND OVER TWO HELPERS.
IT'S GOOD TO HAVE A STORE THAT CAN'T SAY NO TO A LOYAL CUSTOMER.
You monster...
GET A CLUE, OLD MAN!
THAT REMINDS ME, TAKARADA-SAN...
WHAT HAPPENED TO KUNIO YANAGAWA?! WASN'T HE IN THE SAME HOSPITAL AS YOU?

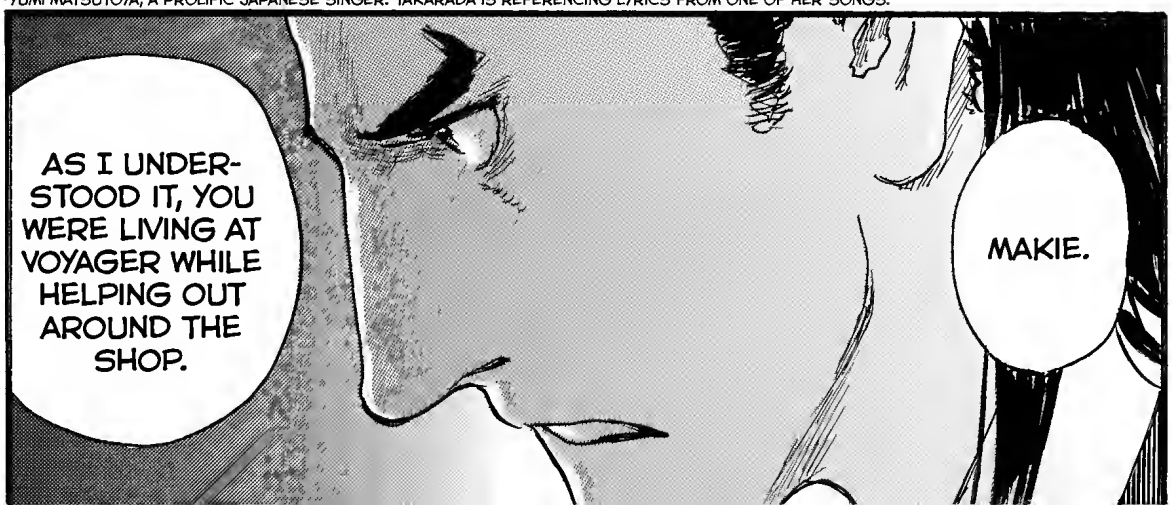

YANA-GAWA-KUN...
IT'S A SHAME WHAT HAPPENED, REALLY...
HUH...? DON'T TELL ME HE...







*YUMI MATSUTOYA, A PROLIFIC JAPANESE SINGER. TAKARADA IS REFERENCING LYRICS FROM ONE OF HER SONGS.



...WERE YOU GOING JUST NOW?
BUT WHERE...
That's a hell of a line.
IS THIS BANGKOK RIGHT AFTER THE COUP OR WHAT?
EVEN IF THAT WERE THE CASE, I DON'T RECALL GIVING YOU PERMISSION TO GO OUT AT NIGHT.
YOU?
FRIENDS?
...
A FRIEND'S HOUSE.

TACHI-
BANA-
SAN.
YOUR SISTER WAS GOING TO STAY AT MY PLACE TONIGHT.
UM... COME AGAIN?

THE THOUGHT IS APPRECIATED, BUT...
...HOWEVER, I DO NOT WISH TO SPOIL HER.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS...
NAKAHARA-SAN...
WE CERTAINLY COULDN'T JUST HAVE HER STAY AT THE STORE. WE'RE NOT EVEN PAYING HER, AND WE'D BE HELD LIABLE IF ANYTHING HAPPENED. KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
...SHE'S BEEN STAYING WITH ME FROM THE BEGINNING, ANYWAY.
PLUS, I MEAN...
Tachibana-san? Are you listening?
Actually, she's been a big help, looking after the kid and...
my sister and her kid live with me, so it's been the four of us.
oh, but it's not just us two.

I know how that is.

It's late, but I'm hungry...
CLUNK CLONK
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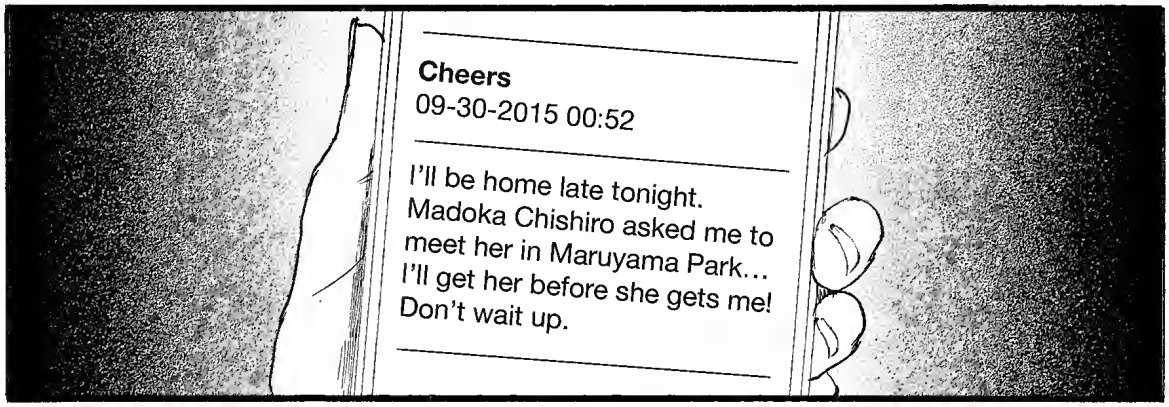
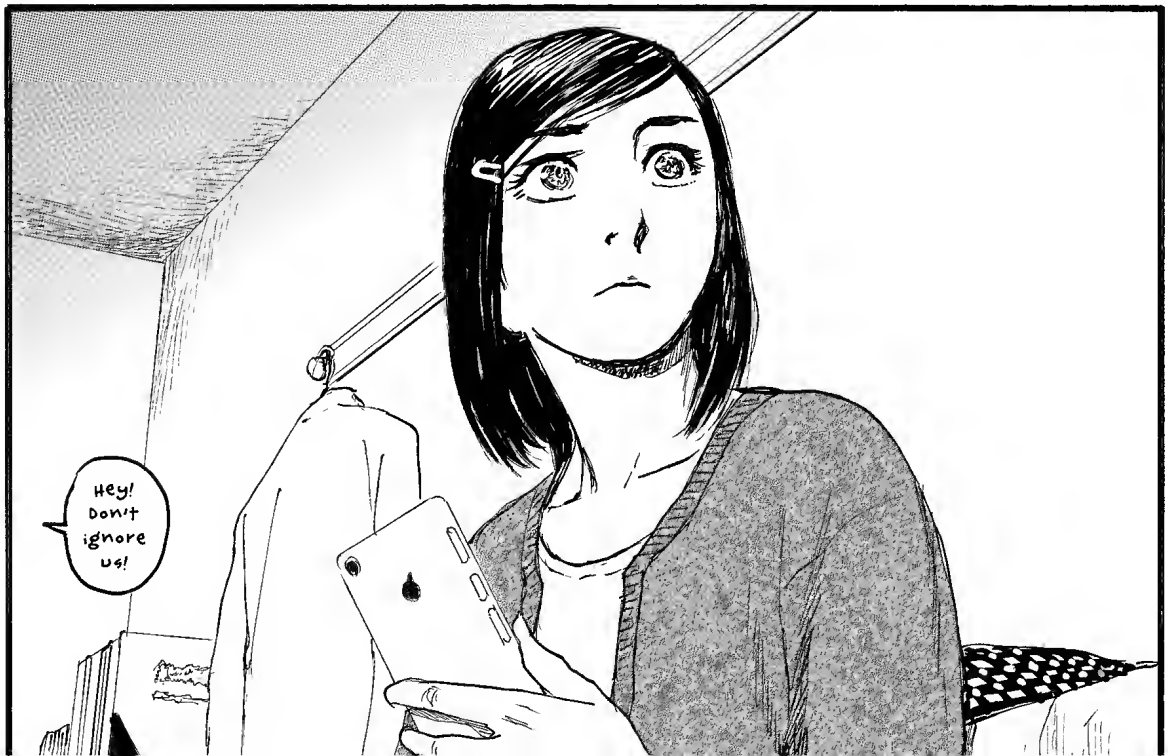

Cheers
09-30-2015 00:52
I'll be home late tonight.
Madoka Chishiro asked me to meet her in Maruyama Park...
I'll get her before she gets me!
Don't wait up.


Hey! Don't ignore us!